HLS 23RS-177 ORIGINAL

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 327

1

BY REPRESENTATIVE SEABAUGH

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

TOPS: Relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), provides that dependent children of parents living overseas meet TOPS residency requirements if certain conditions are met

AN ACT

2	To enact R.S. 17:5023(B)(5), relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to
3	provide relative to residency requirements with respect to initial eligibility for a
4	program award; and to provide for related matters.
5	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
6	Section 1. R.S. 17:5023(B)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
7	§5023. Residency requirements
8	* * *
9	B. Except as provided by Subsection D of this Section, to be eligible for an
10	award pursuant to this Chapter, a dependent student, as defined by the administering
11	agency, shall meet one of the following requirements:
12	* * *
13	(5) He is the dependent child of a parent or court-ordered custodian who
14	meets all of the following criteria:
15	(a) He is living outside the United States or its territories.
16	(b) He is not on active duty with the United States armed forces.
17	(c) He was a resident of Louisiana who actually lived in Louisiana for at
18	least the twenty-four months preceding the date he started living outside the United
19	States or its territories.

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1 (d) He has remained a resident of Louisiana through the date of the student's
2 graduation from high school or completion of a home study program approved by
3 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.
4 \* \* \*
5 Section 2. The provisions of R.S. 17:5023(B)(5) as enacted by this Act shall be
6 applied retroactively to August 1, 2015, as well as prospectively.

## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 327 Original

2023 Regular Session

Seabaugh

**Abstract:** Provides that dependent children of parents living overseas meet TOPS residency requirements under certain conditions.

<u>Present law</u> provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), a program of merit scholarships awarded to students attending certain postsecondary education institutions who meet certain academic and other qualifications, including residency requirements.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that a student satisfies the residency requirements if he is the dependent child of a parent who:

- (1) Is living outside the U.S.
- (2) Is not on active duty with the U.S. armed forces.
- (3) Was a resident of La. who actually lived in La. for at least the 24 months preceding the date he started living outside the U.S.
- (4) Has remained a resident of La. through the date of the student's graduation from high school or completion of an approved home study program.

(Adds R.S. 17:5023(B)(5))